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VIRULENT SMALLPOX, NEW BEDFORD, MASS.

There is at present an outbreak of virulent smallpox at New Bedford, Mass. Since May 15, there have been 10 cases, of which 3 have terminated fatally. Four of the cases have been of the hemorrhagic type.

NOTE ON A RODENT PLAGUE FOCUS.

By W. C. RUCKER, Assistant Surgeon General, United States Public Health Service.

On September 11, 1914, a female *Mus norvegicus* was found dead on the street at the corner of Common and South Rampart Streets in the city of New Orleans. A laboratory examination of this rat proved it plague infected. As it was not altogether improbable that the dead rat had been thrown into the street by some person living or working in the neighborhood, an intensive search was made to determine its origin. On September 16 an infected female *Mus norvegicus* was found at 160 South Rampart Street, a Chinese restaurant, located in a ramshackle frame building between a rat-proof brick building and an open lot. On the other side of the open lot was a brick church. With the exception of a few openings into the gratings underneath the church, this was also rat proof. Directly back of the restaurant was a frame shed. On the same lot with this shed were another shed and a frame cottage. None of these buildings was rat proof. Back of the church was a brick wall which extended irregularly toward Common Street and finally met the corner of a brick rat-proof building. There was only one opening through this wall. This led to the premises at 163 Dryades Street. In the clean-up operations which followed, 38 infected rats were taken. All of these were *Mus norvegicus*, 10 being males and 28 females. Of 135 rats secured in cleaning up this focus 113 were found dead; 2 infected rats were found on the corner of Common and South Rampart Streets, 21 in the Chinese restaurant at 160 South Rampart Street, 1 in the open lot next to it, 12 on the premises at 1017 Common Street, 1 at 163 Dryades Street, and 1 at 200 South Rampart Street.